National Congress Bulletin

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Memo to Local Presidents:

THREE YEARS AGO we selected as our theme "The Family and the Community: Each Shapes the Other—the P.T.A. Serves Both." Out of this theme evolved the Action Program of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, on which the membership has concentrated its creative planning and acting. Reports of the state congresses as well as of their conventions reveal how strong has been the impact of that program. And as we appraise the activities of P.T.A.'s across the country, it can be said with good conscience that they have served well to strengthen the home and the community so that children may thrive in both.

• Now we come to the close of this administration and the beginning of another. But past, present, and future are not isolated in the parent-teacher organization. Hence the story of our striving is an unbroken chronicle. Building on the legacy of previous administrations, we keep on serving families and communities with greater knowledge, experience, and skill.

• Tomorrow will grow out of today, even as today was born of yesterday. The basic pattern remains the same. Only the particulars are changed, to match the special tasks each generation is called upon to perform. Every program that embodies these tasks is of course a positive one, seeking to prevent unhealthy personality growth. At the same time we can never forget that we need to help families that are weak, children who are troubled, mocked at, or in conflict with the law.

• In recent years we have learned that although the P.T.A. is centered in the school, it cannot be contained there. As a custodian of the child's welfare, the P.T.A. must go out into the community. It must cooperate in the programs of other groups that share our concern for both families and communities. This is what we really mean by our fifth Object: "To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for every child the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education." Wherever local units are accepting their full responsibility, the P.T.A. flourishes and education prospers.

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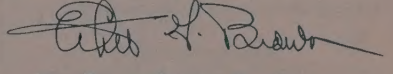
• The towering thermometer illustrates in a dramatic way the passing of another National Congress milestone and the gaining of a goal—memberships totaling more than 11,000,000, as of April 15, 1958! On hand to study the related membership figures are Mrs. Rollin Brown (right), president, and Mrs. James C. Parker, first vice-president.

• More and more, too, we have learned that our organization offers parents and teachers an unexcelled opportunity to correct whatever conditions are hurtful to children and youth. Repeatedly in these pages and in the pages of the *National Parent-Teacher* I have talked about the problems that beat upon us all—problems such as school shortages that have been building up over the past decade; the waste of talent when able youngsters are not encouraged to continue their education; the many unwarranted criticisms of the school curriculum. Granted that none of these problems lends itself to the easy answer or the do-it-quick solution, one thing is certain: They can be solved only by a vigorous parent-teacher partnership.

• Let us ever be mindful that history cannot be frozen. History continues to flow. New frontiers develop. New pioneers continue to be in demand. New chapters must continue to be written—not only in education but in health, social services, and other areas of human welfare. May you help write future chapters as nobly as you have helped write the chapters of the past three years. In these years 1,608,874 men and women were added to our ranks, so that today the parent-teacher membership has passed the eleven-million mark. Here is growth that is good for families and communities.

• My profound thanks to each one of you for all you have done to carry on the Action Program. Small as the individual deed may be, multiplied by millions it becomes, as I have often said, an act of infinite magnitude. By such acts do we move ever closer to goals that are part of the glorious promise of America.



MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, *President*
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

OVER THE TOP WITH

Eleven Million P.T.A. Memberships

• When P.T.A. members gather May 18 to 21 at the sixty-second annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in Omaha, Nebraska, they will represent a widespread membership of more than 11,000,000. Thus Omaha will become a common meeting ground for members of the largest voluntary service organization in the world.

A gain of 323,682 memberships over last year's total is indeed a tribute to local P.T.A. committees who have served to promote and strengthen a growth that is good for children.

Statistics are often called cold, but the word can hardly apply to a collection of figures with so vital an implication as the annual National Congress count. As an example, it shows that 44,047 P.T.A.'s throughout the world were working this year to unite the forces of home, school, and community in behalf of children and youth. Sixteen of the state congresses have more than a thousand local units, with several totals ranging between the two thousand and four thousand mark.

Of the state congresses, New Mexico can claim the honor of the largest membership rise, or 10 per cent. Florida follows closely with a growth of 9 per cent. Figures on the membership by states, appearing in the adjoining column, give a spectacular picture of the ever growing parent-teacher movement.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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MEMBERSHIPS AS OF APRIL 15, 1958

Alabama	196,384
Alaska	8,992
Arizona	77,193
Arkansas	123,927
California	1,673,827
Colorado	163,142
Connecticut	141,914
Delaware	32,223
D. C.	44,766
European Congress, American Parents and Teachers	7,140
Florida	320,203
Georgia	240,949
Hawaii	74,549
Idaho	48,640
Illinois	662,890
Indiana	249,504
Iowa	147,904
Kansas	186,169
Kentucky	181,349
Louisiana	103,684
Maine	29,181
Maryland	177,952
Massachusetts	144,776
Michigan	376,605
Minnesota	240,620
Mississippi	81,116
Missouri	242,684
Montana	32,198
Nebraska	67,371
Nevada	20,672
New Hampshire	23,702
New Jersey	423,816
New Mexico	43,499
New York	495,378
North Carolina	345,932
North Dakota	43,406
Ohio	716,211
Oklahoma	175,372
Oregon	126,184
Pennsylvania	551,209
Rhode Island	54,002
South Carolina	94,312
South Dakota	35,239
Tennessee	301,792
Texas	631,206
Utah	103,655
Vermont	21,372
Virginia	243,306
Washington	218,706
West Virginia	105,502
Wisconsin	140,669
Wyoming	15,109
Unorganized Territory	10,053
Total	11,018,156

SAFE LAUNCHINGS . . . HAPPY LANDINGS

NO MATTER how many rockets we launch, or how many scientific instruments the rockets carry, they still cannot teach us much about human growth and development. This we have to learn right where we are.

Our homes, schools, and communities are our laboratories and testing grounds, on which we launch children from one stage to another. If the launchings are to be successful, we must seek the knowledge we need and the means of making it work. May the 1958–59 parent and family life education program help us gain the insight and information we need to do our important job with increasing confidence, intelligence, and delight.

Preschool Course

Can a Child Be Too Good?
Do We Fail To Challenge Our Children?
How To Read Psychology Without Anxiety
Dealing with Discipline: Try These Techniques
Have We Overstressed Security?
Preschoolers Can Solve Their Problems
Reading the Signs of Mental Health
Love Makes All the Difference

School-age Course

Science Makes the Grades
Young Financier: The Child with an Allowance
So Young—and So Worried?
Four-Lane Highway to Health
Tracking Down Talent in Grade School
Laws Children Ought To Learn
The Hurt That Doesn't Show
Have We Abdicated Our Authority?

Adolescent Course

What Texas Knows About Youth
The Day the Rocket Struck the High School Curriculum
What Did Kinsey Overlook About Kids?
Signals of Mental Distress in Adolescence
What About High School Hoodlumism?
Family Life Education—Are We Passing the Buck?
Who Will Go to College?
Youth Prepares for the Scientific Age

• **Subscription rates, September 1, 1958**
$1.50 a year, U.S. and possessions
$1.75 a year, Canada
$2.00 a year, Other countries

• **Are you informing subscribers?**

• **Are you "zone conscious"?**

Each member and each magazine subscriber must be counted on to help carry out an emphatic request of the post office—that zone numbers be listed for all subscribers who live in zoned cities. They are needed when (1) writing about present subscriptions, (2) renewing subscriptions, (3) ordering new subscriptions (or other Congress publications), and when (4) asking any questions about publications.

The Lincolnwood Magazine Plan

● This is a success story—the story of how the magazine committee of the Lincolnwood, Illinois, P.T.A. sold more than five hundred subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher* this past year.

After several not-too-fruitful attempts to sell subscriptions at P.T.A. meetings, the committee agreed on an area canvass.

To make the canvass as thorough and efficient as possible, the committee obtained the names and addresses of parents from school lists. Names, addresses, and phone numbers were copied onto cards, which were then filed geographically according to street name and numerically by house number. The eight members of the committee and the chairman met to discuss sales approaches and campaign techniques, and each was assigned the cards for her chosen zone. Each member recruited two or three more workers, who were given cards, samples of magazines, and subscription forms.

The workers set themselves a deadline and went to work. Some of them called parents on the phone and made definite appointments to pick up subscriptions. Others put on their sturdiest walking shoes and rang doorbells. The chairman called the canvassers periodically to spur them on. The final result of this campaign: 532 subscriptions!

National LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

April 5, 1958–
April 15, 1958*

(Show this list to friends whose names appear here. What other citizens in your community deserve to share this spotlight?)

THE ROSTER of Honorary National Life Members continues steadily to grow, as more and more parent-teacher organizations take this opportunity to honor citizens who have contributed to the welfare of children and youth. Their gifts of Honorary National Life Memberships not only pay tribute to past efforts but also build for the future, for, by increasing the Endowment Fund, they help promote the extension and development of parent-teacher work.

Again it is our happy privilege to announce the names of those who most recently have been awarded Honorary National Life Memberships. It is gratifying to note the large number of states represented in this list: twenty-five and the District of Columbia. From far-off Japan, too, comes a name to add to the roll of persons honored for their distinguished service to children.

• • •

Alabama: James A. McPherson, Chickasaw; Mrs. Grover C. O'Kelley, Birmingham

Arkansas: Mrs. H. L. Parks, Jonesboro; F. S. Root and E. D. Trice,* Fayetteville; Mrs. Lloyd L. Watt, Little Rock

California: Mrs. Louis R. Forner, Los Altos; Mrs. Thomas E. Lawsen, Sacramento

*Names marked with an asterisk were not included in last month's list because, at that time, the presentations had not yet taken place.

Colorado: Mrs. Ralph J. Arnold, Denver

Connecticut: Mrs. Charles Herman,* New London; Mrs. J. Herbert Sizer, Hartford

District of Columbia: Dr. Hobart M. Corning

Florida: Mrs. Harold C. Campbell,* Key West

Georgia: Mrs. J. R. Pinson, Jr., Baconton

Illinois: Mrs. Charles Fago, Winthrop Harbor; Mrs. Emanuel Stavish, Chicago

Indiana: Mrs. Merl Fall, South Bend

Kentucky: Mrs. Lillian Marsh, Louisville

Maine: Frederick A. Halla* and Edmund C. Ritchie,* Portland

Michigan: Mrs. Charles W. Neldrett,* Pontiac

Missouri: Mrs. Frank Shaw, North Kansas City

Nebraska: Mrs. Bertha P. Buckner, Dr. Harry Burke, Mrs. J. F. Lucas, Florence Reynolds, all of Omaha

Nevada: Dr. Calvin Reed, Reno

New Jersey: Mrs. Gertrude Dreyfus, West New York

New York: Mrs. Rolland F. Bentley, Cortland; C. Daniel Ludlum, Rockville Centre, L.I.; Mrs. Charles S. Walker, Albany

North Carolina: Mrs. Mamie J. Riley,* Durham

Ohio: Minnie Pomrenke, Oak Harbor; Mrs. Clarence E. Taft, Columbus; Paul G. Wachter,* Youngstown

Pennsylvania: Fred Lang, Gibsonia; Netta Belle Shenberger,* York

Rhode Island: Mrs. Douglas T. Wilson, Centredale

South Dakota: Mrs. Arthur Olson,* Groton

Texas: Mrs. Melvin Anderson, Amarillo; Mrs. Frank M. Dowd, Dallas; Mrs. Ed Dusebout, Conroe; James W. Hagler,* Kilgore; Mrs. Jim Hill, Fort Worth; Mrs. Fred Hunt, Burkburnett; Jack J. Lamb, Austin

Washington: Mrs. Berne Jacobsen, Seattle

West Virginia: Mrs. John W. Gilmore, Wheeling

Japan: V. R. Bennett*

● Another gift to the Endowment Fund, which is also acknowledged with appreciation, was in the amount of $25.00 from the Fort Leavenworth P.T.A. in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD
Immediate Past President
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

● Members of the Lincolnwood magazine committee: Back, left to right, Mrs. Robert Weiss, Mrs. Charles Goldstein, Mrs. Silverman; front, left to right, Mrs. Sidney Daskovsky (chairman), Mrs. Charles Milner, Mrs. Luke Spencer. Other members of the committee, not shown in the picture, are Mrs. Albert Greenberg, Mrs. J. B. Finklestein, and Mrs. Masover.

P. T. A.

BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest

● **"GOOD TEACHING DESERVES RECOGNITION—NOW!"** members of the William Hatton Elementary School P.T.A. in Southington, Connecticut, felt. So they held a "Toast to the Teachers" night at which the guests of honor received corsages or boutonnieres and were entertained with a skit written and acted by parents. The high point of the evening came when a formal resolution expressing parents' appreciation to the teachers was read and passed by standing acclamation.

● **FOR ITS HELP IN EXTENDING LIBRARY SERVICE** over the nation, the National Congress of Parents and Teachers was paid a tribute at the American Library Association's annual convention in Kansas City, Missouri. During the convention, members of the Kansas City Council of P.T.A.'s served as hostesses at various booths, so that library delegates could attend the professional meetings. One meeting, however, was opened to anyone who presented a P.T.A. membership card. The council and the Missouri Congress also furnished bouquets of flowers for several booths and provided a thousand roses for the Newbery-Caldecott dinner. Thus the entire convention could appreciate the National Congress's keen interest in books and libraries.

● Linked by a "bond of books" is this group at the American Library Association convention (from left): Phyllis Fenner, author of "The Proof of the Pudding: What Children Read"; Mrs. Lillian L. Batchelor, president of the American Association of School Librarians; Marian C. Young, president of the Children's Library Association; Mrs. Aaron E. Margulis, National Congress chairman of Reading and Library Service; and John T. Eastlick, president of the Public Libraries Division, A.L.A.

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● A Washington Congress booth at the Western Washington Fair features "National Parent-Teacher" and other Congress publications. Shown here are (from left) Mrs. Robert Myers, president, Tacoma Council; Mrs. Clarence Shaw, state chairman of county councils and chairman of the project; and Mrs. Hylan Johnson, Mrs. Wallace Gregory, and Mrs. Don Reed, Pierce County Council.

● **A LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP** sponsored by the Wisconsin Congress of Parents and Teachers devoted one session to training P.T.A. leaders in the use of the study-discussion courses in the *National Parent-Teacher*. A demonstration based on "Lasting Lessons in Spiritual Values" (April 1957 issue) was prepared by the group and presented to the general assembly. Mrs. George F. Steinmetz, state chairman of parent and family life education, reports the presentation as a "first experience" for most of the participants.

● **OLDEST DELEGATE** to the Georgia Congress convention last year was Willis Boyd, who has eighty birthdays to his credit. Mr. Boyd, the oldest Scout master in the nation in point of service, brought to convention delegates a special plea for more volunteers for Boy Scout work.